

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144125

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 ARA-10 SSO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES: CUT FLOWERS FROM COLOMBIA

REF: (A) BOGOTA 5814; (B) STATE 141643

1. TREASURY AGREES TO SHORT REPEAT SHORT DELAY IN PUBLICATION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT OF PRESIDENT PASTRANA REPORTED IN REFTEL (A) TO IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE ELIMINATION OF BOUNTY OR GRANT. FINAL TREASURY DECISION WILL, OF COURSE, DEPEND UPON ANALYSIS OF GOC PROPOSAL. POSTPONEMENT IS SUBJECT TO FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

2. GOC TEAM SHOULD BE IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS ON MONDAY, JULY 8 AND BE FULLY PREPARED TO EXPLORE DETAILS OF COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL. WE UNDERSTAND GOC HAS RESTRICTED

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PAGE 02 STATE 144125

TRAVEL OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, BUT URGE THAT TEAM BE HEADED BY

OFFICIAL WHO ENJOYS CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT PASTRANA. REQUEST THAT FINANCIAL ATTACHE MARESCA ALSO BE PRESENT AT DISCUSSIONS. TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FOR MARESCA FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED COLOMBIAN ACTION WILL NEED TO BE IMMEDIATE; THAT IS, WITHIN A MAXIMUM OF ONE WEEK FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS. FURTHER DELAY IN FINAL DISPOSITION OF THIS CASE WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE POSSIBLE.

4. AS REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTTEL (B), GOC WILL HAVE TO BEAR FULL BURDEN OF PROVING TO TREASURY'S SATISFACTION THAT FLOWER GROWERS WILL NOT CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM COUNTERAVAILABLE PORTION OF CAT. TO THAT END, GOC TEAM MUST BE READY TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL PRESENT AND INTENDED FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF IDEMA. DECREES, LAWS AND REGULATIONS, BOTH IN FORCE AND PROPOSED AFFECTING IDEMA OPERATIONS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE.

5. TREASURY OFFICIALS ARE FRANKLY SKEPTICAL THAT IDEMA, UPON EXAMINATION, WILL NOT TURN OUT TO BE MERELY A DISGUISED METHOD FOR BESTOWING BOUNTY OR GRANT. IN GENERAL A PATTERN OF ACTIVITY WHICH INDICATES THAT IDEMA FUNDS ARE BEING USED TO SUBSTITUTE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIED GOODS OR SERVICES FOR THOSE WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS WOULD SHOW A CONTINUED BOUNTY OR GRANT TO GROWERS. FUND EXPENDITURES FOR ACTIVITIES OF GENERAL BENEFIT TO COLOMBIAN ECONOMY WHICH ARE PARALLEL IN NATURE TO THOSE FUNCTIONS NORMALLY CARRIED OUT BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WOULD BE MOST ACCEPTABLE.

6. EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND BY IMMEDIATE NIACT INDICATING GOC'S REACTION TO FOREGOING AND WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH PROPOSED SCENARIO.

7. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE TO PREVENT COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTION AND THAT COLOMBIAN TEAM MUST BE FULLY PREPARED TO ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE SCOPE OF IDEMA ACTIVITIES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 144125

8. YOU SHOULD ALSO UNDERLINE FACT THAT POSTPONEMENT FOR MORE THAN VERY SHORT PERIOD IS IMPOSSIBLE. TREASURY HAS ALREADY GRANTED A 2 AND 1/2 WEEK DELAY FOR COMPLETION OF COLOMBIAN STUDY PRIOR TO CONSULTATIONS OF JUNE 26 AND PRESSURE FOR EXPEDITIOUS ACTION ON OUTSTANDING COUNTERVAILING DUTY CASES CONTINUES UNABATED. THE GENERALLY COOPERATIVE NATURE OF COLOMBIAN RESPONSE THUS FAR AND BUSINESSLIKE MANNER IN WHICH THEY HAVE APPROACHED

PROBLEM IS IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR POSITIVE
DECISION TO GRANT ADDITIONAL DELAY. SISCO

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